gramme as Chlorine tablets developed by NEERI are most economical and most effective disinfectents for water and prevent various water borne diseases and cost very little to the Central Exchequer; and

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above are affirmative what remedial measures Government have taken or propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) It is estimated that 78% of the rural population is covered with either partially or fully protected water supply. The remaining population is likely to be covered during the 8th Five Year Plan period. Disinfection of drinking water is a part of the protected water supply scheme.

यूनानी दवाइयों की खरीद में अनियमितताएं

4664. **मौलाना औवैदुल्ला खान आज़मी :** क्या **स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार को 1993, 1994, 1995 और 1996 के वर्षों के लिए यूनानी दवाओं की खरीद में हुई अनियमितताओं के संबंध में शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) ऐसी अनियमितताओं को रोकने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या-क्या उपाए किए गए हैं ;

(घ) यूनानी दवाइयों की गुणवत्ता में निरन्तर गिरावट होने के क्या कारण हैं; और

(ङ) सरकार पूरे मामले को जांच कराने के लिए कौन-कौन से कदम उठा रही है ?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री (श्री बा० शंकरानन्द) : (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) और (ग) ये प्रश्न नहीं उठते ।

(घ) इस संबंध में ऐसी कोई शिकायत प्राप्त नहीं हुई है ।

(ङ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Death of children due to Diarrhoea

4665. SHRI M. A. BABY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that due to diarrhoea, 80 children die every hour in India ;

(b) what are the steps being taken by Government to control and prevent this killer disease among children ;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that many anti diarroheal drugs banned in many countries due to their toxicity and other adverse effects, are being flooded in Indian markets by some companies ; and

(d) what are the steps being taken by Government to prevent this and also to promote and propagate safe Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) A survey carried out by the Registrar General of India in rural areas of selected States in 1992 shows that 7.64% of all deaths in the age group 0-14 years were due to gastroenterities and diarrohoea, this includes deaths due to diarrohoea amongst new born.

(b) to (d) The Oral Rehyderation Therapy (ORT) Programme is being implemented and ORS packets are being supplied to prevent deaths due to diarrhoea. Government has initiated action to ban antidiarrhoeal drugs.

Encoragement to Naturopathy Institutes in the country

4666. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) details of Naturopathy Institutes functioning in the country in public and private sectors ;

(b) whether Government have ever reviewed the functioning of such institutes in the country ;

(c) whether the Naturopathy treatment in the country has been found inexpensive and more curable than other ISM system's;

(d) whether Government have allocated/propose to allocate funds for the encouragement of naturopathy institutes in the country during the Eighth plan period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) 7 public and about 51 private naturopathy institutions are known to be functioning in the country. The Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy reviews the functioning of institutions which receive grant-in-aid.

(c) Naturopathy emphasises more on prevention and there is no cost of medicines.

(d and (e) Government have allocated Rs. 3.00 crores to Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy and Rs. 1.00 crore to National Institute of Naturopathy during the 8th Five Year Plan.

Setting up of Naturopathy Institutes in States

4667. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Naturopathy is based on "prevention is better than cure" being not only curative but also educative and preventive, besides cheaper than other methods of treatment, though allopaths are internationally averse to it;

(b) whether it is a fact that Naturopathy in our country remained subdued or ignored out of all Indian systems of medicines despite its benefits to the suffering humanity;

(c) whether government propose to set up one Naturopathic Institute in each of the States in view of its benefits; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Naturopathy emphasises more on prevention and there is no cost of medicines.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Setting up of treatment facilities is the responsibility of State Govts. Government of India promotes Naturopathy and also assists organisations involved in the work through the activities of National Institute of Naturopathy & Central Council for Research in Yoga & Naturopathy.

Indiscriminate use of Antibiotics in the country

4668. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :

SHRI SOM PAL :

SHRI SARADA MOHANTY :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government share the concern expressed by Indian Medical Association at its recent national conference over indiscriminate use of antibiotics in India, which causes several serious side effects many a time hazardous to health;

(b) if so, what measures are being contemplated to keep a check on this misuse and overuse of antibiotics in the country;

(c) whether Government would consider a programme of educating the medical practioners as well as the common man on these asptcts; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (d) Excessive use of antibiotics may cause side effects. In order to promote their rational use, medical practioners are advised to prescribe antibiotics only after clinically diagnosing the disease and informing the patient about the exact regime to be followed during treatment. Further the possible side-effects of the drug are to be highlighted in the package for the guidance of the practioner and the patient. Steps are also taken to educate and update the knowledge of medical practitioners through workshops, seminars etc. in this regard.